

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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FM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1305

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

COMUSFORAZ

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L PONTA DELGADA 0394

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: FLA PROGRAM AND THE LOCAL MEDIA

REF: PONTA DELGADA 0384, 0390

1. UP UNTIL NOW THE MEDIA IN THE AZORES FOR MOST PART HAS REFRAINED FROM DIRECT MENTION OF FLA OR ITS ACTIVITIES. WEEK OF OCT 6 TO 10, HOWEVER, THE PRESS AND RADIO BEGAN TO DISCUSS FLA OPENLY.
2. EVENING OF OCTOBER 7 COMMERCIAL RADIO STATION ON SANTA MARIA BROADCAST THE COMPLETE PROGRAM OF FLA, SEE PONTA DELGADA 0384) ACCOMPANIED BY SO CALLED AZOREAN NATIONAL ANTHEMS.
3. ON OCTOBER 8 AN AZOREAN NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED FLA COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING FLA PROGRAM HAD BEEN SENT TO MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ADMINISTRATION WITH DEMAND THAT GOP RESPOND TO ITS REQUEST FOR A REFERENDUM WITHIN EIGHT DAYS. ONE PONTA DELGADA PAPER PRINTED STORY OF FLA ANNOUNCEMENT BUT NOT THE COMMUNIQUE ITSELF.
4. ON OCTOBER 10 TWO OF PONTA DELGADA THREE DAILY NEWSPAPERS PRINTED EXCERPTS OF THE FLA PROGRAM. IN ADDITION, ONE CARRIED
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AN ARTICLE CALLING FOR FLA LEADERS TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES.

GENERAL MAGALHAES HAS RECENTLY PUBLICLY SAID HE WOULD BE WILLING TO TALK TO FLA LEADERS IF THEY WERE WILLING TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES.

5. CONSULATE EMPLOYEE HEARD FLA CLANDESTINE RADIO AT 1:00 P.M. AS FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE THIS IS THE FIRST TIME FLA CLANDESTINE RADIO HAS BEEN HEARD IN PONTA DELGADA. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THE CLANDESTINE RADIO TRANSMITTER ON TERCEIRA HAS INCREASED ITS STRENGTH OR IF FLA SET UP SEPARATE TRANSMITTER ON SAO MIGUEL.

6. COMMENT: THE WIDE DISTRIBUTION AND PUBLICATION OF FLA PROGRAM HAS REMOVED SOME OF THE MYSTERY SURROUNDING THE ORGANIZATION. ITS LEADERS NOW FACE TWO CRUCIAL TESTS. ONE THEY HAVE BEEN CHALLENGED TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES. SECONDLY, WITH WIDE PUBLICITY SURROUNDING ITS COMMUNIQUE DEMANDING A REFERENDUM, FLA'S PRESTIGE IS ON THE LINE. IF THE GOP IGNORES ITS ULTIMATIUM OR TURNS DOWN THE REFERENDUM REQUEST FLA MUST RESPOND OR SHOW ITSELF TO BE INEFFECTUAL.
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